

**Town of Gnesen Planning Commission  
May 15, 2024 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Matt Thibodeau, Carter Williams, Pete Bergman, Sherri Underthun, Kathy Buran, Kevin Middleton, Carol Jacobson, and Dick DeLano and; Hannah Jurek, Planning and Zoning Secretary.

**Members Absent:** Joe Ferguson, Rick Hogenson, Zoning Officer, and Mike Polzin, Zoning Officer

**Others Present:** Nancy Poppenburg, Town Board Liaison; Jay Haller, Becky Nordskog (MN Power), Jason Lipe, Max Lobbestael

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** It was asked to add South Church Road to the agenda after MN Power Tomahawk Point Plat, with those changes a motion was made by Dick to approve the Agenda, seconded by Matt. All voted in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE Public Hearing Pfingsten Variance V-24-02:** A motion was made by Sherri to approve the Public Hearing-Pfingsten Variance V-24-02 minutes, seconded by Kathy. All voted in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE April 17, 2024 MINUTES:** A motion was made by Carol to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes, seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor.

**MN Power Tomahawk Point Plat Subdivision:** Becky Nordskog from MN Power was at the meeting to present and discuss the MN Power Tomahawk Point Plat Subdivision. This plat is between both Gnesen and Fredenburg Townships. The only lot in Gnesen Township is lot 1 and outlots H&I. MN Power is retaining the outlots and lot 1 block 4, that they are getting platted and surveyed for legal purposes and there is no plans to develop or selling. It was asked if leaseholders got the plat? The response was no. After pointing out lots on the maps provided, Sherri made the motion to recommend the Town Board to move forward with the Tomahawk Point Plat. Seconded by Dick. All voted in favor.

**South Church Road:** Jason Lipe and Max Lobbestael were in the audience and asked what the steps would be to have the Township take over a road. For 911 emergency purposes, the cartway near Church Road and Emerson Road had to be named, and was named South Church Road, so Mr. Lipe and Mr. Lobbestael were curious on how South Church Road could become a Township Road. It was recommended to them to talk to the Town Board, that it is a Town Board decision to take on roads.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Cartway Committee:** Carter presented to the Commission an email with changes to road definitions. The email was forwarded prior to the meeting and now looking for a motion to move forward and add to the list of ordinance changes to present to the Town Board. Carol made a suggestion to change the verbiage under private road section (b) number 4, to remove “must locate” and add “be” for it to read, “*4. Fire numbers must be located at each driveway.*” With that agreeable change, Pete made the motion to approve the changes and add to the list of ordinance changes to be recommended to the Town Board once other ordinance changes are ready to be presented. Seconded by Dick. All voted in favor.

**Storage Containers:** It was asked for the Storage Containers be tabled until the June meeting, giving time for the subcommittee to reconvene. Sherri spoke at this time stating that she will be recusing herself from the committee stating that it was brought to her attention that members of the Commission felt it was a conflict of interest and that she was overstepping. Kathy, being the chair of this subcommittee, will reach out to the others to discuss a time to meet.

**Ordinance Changes proposed Process:** It was presented to the commission and sort of process moving forward with suggestion to make changes to the ordinance. It was suggested that each commission member be

given a working word doc to be able to make the changes on in the document to then discuss and then changes can be made. That made suggestion made many members of the Commission nervous, stating that having that many copies of an ordinance like that can get confusing and messy. Sherri then offered to volunteer to help anyone who doesn't have the capabilities to copy and paste from the ordinance that everyone has access to through the towns website, or given in pdf form via email.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT:** Both Zoning Officers were gone, but Carter gave a brief report based on what was said at the May 15, 2024 Town Board meeting. On Normanna Road, there seems to be a slow up in the clean up processes. The gentleman that has been doing the work now had a full time job and that is taking his time. Rick will follow up, and once they get official word, the Township will step in and finish the clean up process. Mike is still working with the gentleman on Hemlock Drive. A letter has been sent and received with a warning and fine. There was much discussion on Hemlock amongst Commission members, ending with Kevin making a motion to make a recommendation to the Town Board that they should abate on June 30 with a seconded from Kathy. With discussion it was added that there should a set time period to clear the right-of-way, and to not burn or do any work after dark, given recent complaints of noise. Carter made the motion to add the additions to the original motion, seconded by Matt. All voted in favor. Mike will be meeting with the folks with Stewart Camp at the end of May. That they will be doing an inventory of what is there, and will make come to an agreement, this time in writing, moving forward.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORT:** Nancy Poppenberg gave a quick update, stating that there is a state statue regarding remote meetings. She also reported that Town Board Chair Jon Nelson is still working on getting contact and information regard the possible mining that might be happening in the Township and will keep the Commission in the loop. On June 6, CTC will be hosting a meeting at the Community Center to answer community questions regarding the high speed internet being installed in the Township. There is also a FireWise meeting scheduled for Thursday May 16 from 6 pm- 8 pm.

Next P&Z Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by Kathy to adjourn, with a second by Carol. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Hannah Jurek, Planning and Zoning Secretary

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Carter Williams, Planning Commission Chair

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Date

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Date